

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW; Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch:

This is a public comment for WC Docket Number 12-375. First of all I wish to thank the Commission for the action taken effective February 11, 2014 which greatly reduced interstate prison phone rates. My uncle, who just turned 72, lives a rather meager lifestyle and struggled to afford one phone call per month from the Arizona State Prison to his home in Chicago, IL at \$9.53! Now, thanks to the action taken by the Commission, I can call him twice (sometimes for less than the one call used to cost! Thank you so much for helping to maintain the personal touch of being able to hear his voice, without hurting his tightly managed personal finances!

Although I am very appreciative of the reduction of interstate call rates, unfortunately my Uncle is the only person I call who lives outside the State of Arizona. The remainder/majority of my phone calls are Intrastate, which were unaffected by the Commission's recent ruling/action. My mother, in particular, is the one most affected by the unjust Intrastate calling rates. You see, I've been a type I juvenile diabetic (insulin-dependent) for 30 years. As a result, I have a whole array of diabetes-related complications which are often mismanaged by the prison's healthcare system. As a matter of fact, the Arizona Dept. of Corrections just settled a class-action lawsuit on behalf of

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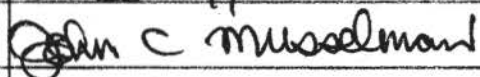
every inmate regarding our poor healthcare! My mother is my most vigilant advocate, to say the least. But because of the role she plays, she insists (despite the personal sacrifices she's forced to make due to the cost of the calls) that I call and report actions not taken by medical staff frequently. Many times I call her 5 times per day! While this gets the problems addressed far more effectively than I am capable of, it comes with a huge cost!

My mom, just like my uncle, is trying her best to live off of a very limited monthly budget! However, by my calculation, our frequent phone calls often result in \$200.00+ per month in expenses. She is 76 years old and although she refuses to discuss finances, I know this is a very large part of her limited budget for her monthly living expenses! You have no idea how much this weighs on my conscious, wondering if she's eating enough or if her air conditioning is set ridiculously high during Phoenix's grueling summer, so she can afford my calls!

And then, to add insult to injury, Securus tacks on additional fees every time she adds money to her phone pre-paid debit account! It's not enough that they're making money hand over fist on the calls. They add extra charges just for the privilege of doing business with them! There is a good reason these companies have been, and are currently, owned by private equity firms and other rich investors! Even with your recent action, they're still so profitable they're worth in excess of \$1 Billion!

Again, your recent action/ruling on Interstate Prison Phone rates is very much appreciated. However, with 85% of prison phone calls being Intrastate, you've only covered a small minority of these greedy companies' gouging of our poor family members. Statistically speaking, families of prisoners fall below the middle class as far as their incomes. Quite often, as in the case of my family, sacrifices must be made in order to have our phone calls. Often visits cannot be afforded, due to the amount of money spent on our calls. I implore you to consider the same type of ruling and action on Intrastate Prison Phone Calls. Words cannot express what that would mean to me! Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

 John C. Musselman

John C. Musselman ADOC #14388a